

## REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

By Walter Trohan

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WASHINGTON BUREAU

### Fullbright Unit So Far Shuns Propaganda of Leftists

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 18—Sen. J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.) is conducting a select investigation into propaganda in the press. To date the investigation has probed into publicity firms representing friendly governments or business interests in friendly governments, but it has never gone into propaganda conducted on behalf of Communists and leftist governments, nor has it gone into governmental propaganda and news management.



Trohan

No doubt investigations into presentation and management of the news can serve to keep the press on its toes and to benefit the public by preserving and encouraging high standards of freedom of the press. But the conductors of such an inquiry should be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion, and the inquiry should cover all phases of news management.

In theory, the Senate investigation into the activities of foreign agents is being conducted by the Senate foreign relations committee, of which Fulbright is chairman. Actually, it is being run by Walter Parys, a Fulbright assistant, whose record includes attendance at a Moscow youth conference. Pincus says he went to the conference to disrupt the Communists, but he hasn't displayed any such intentions in the current inquiry.

The investigation has uncovered some questionable activities on the part of the defunct International News Service in the operation of a special services branch. Some of this spilled over slightly into the United Press International, which bought I.N.S. and inherited its special services branch. These operations are being corrected and are to the credit of the committee.

### Foreign Interests Are Investigated

THE INVESTIGATION has dealt with a publicity firm which worked for the assassinated Dominican Republic dictator, Rafael Trujillo. It has hit publicity firms which have promoted Portuguese, Nationalist Chinese, West German, Mexican and Israeli interests. It has hit sugar lobbyists. Fulbright also struck at a firm which supplies canned editorials to various newspapers, some of which, it was found, appeared in his own paper, the Northwest Arkansas Times.

Untouched in the investigation have been any publicity firms or foreign agents working for the communist countries or the so-called neutral countries, such as Indonesia and India, or for emerging African nations.

Nor has the investigation gone into the activities of the big time foreign public relations and legal law firms which are close to the State Department and which are under the committee's microscope.

From the nature of Fulbright's questions to witnesses, it would seem that he feels that newspapers should label material they receive from foreign agents. This attitude isn't especially complimentary to the press or newspaper men. One of the fundamentals of a good reporter is the ability to recognize propaganda in what is sent to him as news and to edit it out or disclose it for what it is.

If newspapers and newspaper men are to inform their readers of their sources, the area of information becomes so big as to be ridiculous. A tremendous flow of propaganda floods Washington newspaper men every day, the greatest amount of it from the government which maintains batteries of press agents at a cost of millions of dollars every year.

### Fulbright Publicizes New Frontier

EVEN WHILE he was decrying the activities of publicists for foreign governments, Fulbright took the Senate floor to do some publicity for the New Frontier by attacking Sen. Barry Goldwater [Ariz.], whom the Kennedy administration mortally dreads and fears may become the 1964 G. O. P. Presidential nominee. Fulbright invited Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy, brother and prime minister of the President, to sit in the gallery and listen to him assail Goldwater's foreign policy views.

Whether one likes Bobby or not, everyone recognizes he is not stupid. Bobby didn't accept an invitation which would have labeled him immediately as the inspiration for the anti-Goldwater blast.

Carried to its logical conclusion, the Fulbright investigation would seem to be aimed at making the field of propaganda and news management the particular province of government press agents, especially of those in the state department, whose operations would seem to make it the biggest foreign agent of them all. And the investigation would seem to leave a free field for communist agents and communist front agents.